



PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: David Brown
(410) 361-9296

"Disabilities Parking Awareness and Enforcement Day"

The Mayor's Commission on Disabilities and Baltimore City Department of Transportation today announced that on Wednesday, September 19, 2007 an aggressive education and enforcement effort will take place to raise awareness on the proper use of disability tags. The Department of Transportation, along with the Mayor's Commission on Disabilities, the Parking Authority of Baltimore City, the Baltimore Police Department, Maryland Department of Transportation's Motor Vehicle Administration are uniting to educate the public once again on the appropriate use of disability license plates and accessible parking placards.

Handicapped accessible parking spaces are reserved for people with disabilities who also have a handicapped license plate or accessible parking placard issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration. Motorists without disabilities who park vehicles in spaces specifically marked for the handicapped even 'just for a minute' is 60 seconds too long.

"It is our responsibility to educate the public and ensure that the rights of citizens with disabilities are protected," said Mayor Sheila Dixon. "We will continue to reach out to our neighbors and give everyone the tools they need to realize their full potential. For so many, that starts with the freedom of movement, and so I ask all citizens to join us in protecting that right."

The illegal use of marked disability parking spaces infringes on the rights of citizens with disabilities and would immediately become an enforceable violation. "Accessible parking for all our citizens is great for business, seeing your doctor, going to work, and visiting family and friends; let's all pitch in and keep parking available for everyone," said Ms. Antoinette Carter, Chair, Mayor's Commission on Disabilities.

The Department of Transportation, Police Department, and Motor Vehicle Administration will be deploying parking control agents who will target the most frequented handicapped parking violation locations. Agents will canvass locations and issue citations to those who fail to follow proper procedures. "The City of Baltimore is working diligently to protect the rights of people with disabilities; to this end, we want to remind citizens of the need to respect the designated parking made available to those with disabilities" said Al Foxx, Director of the Department of Transportation.

The City of Baltimore hopes that the results of educating the public through this initiative will yield easier and more frequent access to these designated parking spaces for residents and visitors with disabilities.

